Rev. Sem. C. W. Hill

February 10, 1853

Mr. Symmes

Dear Sir,

Allow me to tender to you the thanks of our Missionary Society for your communication of the 5th recently received, and, according to your request, to forward you an early reply. You will of course bear in mind the fact that our "School of the Prophets" is Presbyterian rather in doctrine than in number of students. The number, altogether, only Eighteen, and therefore whatever we do towards promoting the great interests of our Redeemer's Kingdom must be comparatively but little. Would that it might be said of us: "They have done what they could."

The difficulty of determining the real state of feeling in regard to the claims of the Missionary Enterprise upon us, exists here as well as in your Seminary. One year ago, owing to visits of Missionaries and other external influences, a very active spirit of Missionary feeling pervaded the Institution, exhibiting itself in frequent

and earnest conversation and fervent prayer. That enthusiastic spirit does not now prevail; but yet I feel warranted to say that probably a more serious, intelligent, and therefore desirable spirit now exists among us, and will in due season produce most desirable results.

Mr Vantwell, graduate of '52, and Mr Brewster, graduate of '51, have recently set sail for China. One of the present Senior class expects to join the Choctaw Mission, another may possibly go to Mt. Lebanon or some region in Central Asia. The destination of the other members of that class is as yet uncertain.

From the Middle and Junior classes it is probable the Missionary field will receive two or three laborers. There is reason to believe that the claims of the Missionary Enterprise are seriously and prayerfully pondered by each member of this Institution, and that each in spirit says, "Lord, what will Thou have me to do? Here am I, send me."

Our Society meets every Saturday evening. The exercises of the meeting consist of singing, prayer and free consultation on Missionary subjects. Also a sketch of some particular Mission, or of some Missionary, is given at each meeting by a Member previously appointed.

At the Monthly Concert, which is attended by the community generally, and is one of our most interesting meetings, reports are given respecting the Missionary work in foreign lands, and also revivals, and other matters of religious interest in our own country. These meetings have a salutary influence upon all who attend them, particularly upon the minds of the young. — Letters received from Lane & Auburn show that a good state of Missy. feeling exists among our brethren in those Seminaries. A letter from Wms College states that of 206 students, 106 are professors of religion, 71 intending to become Ministers, and 6 of the Senior Class. Missionaries of the Gospel, But, however desirable a deep Faith, Hope and Charity may exist upon the religious character of our respective Institutions, is it not painfully evident that we all need a baptism from on high? That we need to see more vividly the horrors of that world which is to be the everlasting abode of all "the nations that forget God"? That we need to appreciate more than we the precious-ness of that blood which has been shed for the remission of sins? And that we, who are to bear the vessels of the Lord, who as the chosen Ambassadors of the court of heaven, as the blood-bought servants of the Lord Jesus Christ,

need to be more fully impressed with a sense of the sacredness and responsibility of our profession? To have our spirits more effectually stirred within us as we see almost the entire world given to idolatry? And to devote ourselves more exclusively and earnestly to the work of saving souls?

In behalf of our Society, permit me to assure you of our sympathies and prayers—of our love and co-operation in every good word and work, and to solicit from you such information respecting Miss'y. and other matters in your Sem. as you may be disposed to communicate.

Yours till glory

Benjamin Parsons

Answered Apl. 24th 1834
H. G. Hinsdale Cor. Sec.